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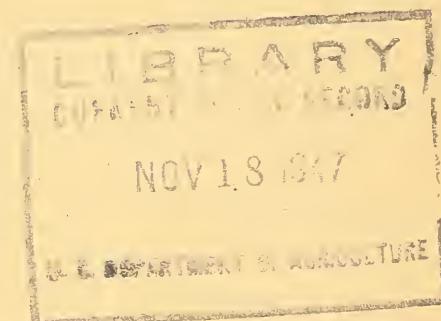
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SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS

in the

MEXICAN OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

With Supplementary Information
on United States Cooperation
in Control Measures



NOTE: This report has been prepared on the basis of the best information obtainable at the time of compilation but is subject to revision and amplification as new facts become available. Additional supplemental reports will be issued as significant developments in eradication work occur. The first report in this series was prepared January 28, 1947.

Highlights of Recent Developments in the Eradication Campaign

Since September 30, when Supplement No. 8 was issued, a number of new campaign developments have occurred. They are summarized as follows:

New plan of financing campaign, accepted by both the United States and Mexican Governments, to facilitate field operations.

Hunting prohibited for non-residents in infected Central Mexican States as an aid to disease control and eradication.

Further increase in United States personnel and equipment now engaged in the eradication effort.

Tests of previously infected areas planned for State of San Luis Potosi.

Recent information activities.

United States and Mexico Ratify Fund-Pooling Agreement to Permit Accelerated Eradication Operations

After agreement between the United States and Mexican sections of the commission and an exchange of diplomatic notes between the two countries, a new system of unified commission financing went into effect on October 3. It provides that Mexico will contribute 3,000,000 pesos each month to the account of the joint commission and that the United States will contribute additional sums necessary for the swiftest possible operation of the program. Before, October 3, the United States had been paying for all cattle indemnities and Mexico those for swine, sheep, and goats. Before the creation of the joint-commission fund, which superseded separate funds controlled by the United States and Mexican sections, both sections agreed to the prompt liquidation of any outstanding obligations including animal indemnities.

Indemnities for all animals slaughtered are now being paid from a common fund. The plan is aimed at prompter payment of all animal indemnities at the time of slaughter. Both sections will continue to pay the salaries of their respective national personnel assigned to the campaign and, in addition, Mexico has agreed to "provide to the extent required, and pay all expenses.... of forces of the Mexican National Army for such quarantine and enforcement duties as may be necessary."

Officials of the commission have expressed the belief that the new arrangement will permit a swifter and more efficient realization of the eradication goal inasmuch as delays in necessary slaughter brought about by occasional lack of funds will be eliminated. Furthermore, the program of replacing mules for slaughtered oxen will be accelerated, thus increasing public cooperation with the campaign.

Hunting Restrictions Imposed on Non-Residents of Central Infected States to Minimize Danger of Spreading Infection

As in the United States, the fall is the hunting season in Mexico. Usually, many residents of metropolitan areas go with dogs and horses to the States of Jalisco, Guanajuato, Michoacan, and Queretaro to hunt deer and wild pigs. Unfortunately for the hunters, however, these States are among those infected with foot-and-mouth disease, and wild animals with cloven hoofs are as susceptible to the disease as domestic species.

Hunters, with their dogs and horses, going into and leaving the infected areas, represent another possibility of spreading the disease beyond its present confines. And this danger is heightened if they bring out of the diseased area carcasses of infected wild game. Scientists are agreed that the most infective stage of the disease is just before the vesicles make their appearance.

To avoid this additional handicap to eradication work, the Mexican game officials, at the suggestion of the commission, have announced that deer or wild-pig hunting licenses will not be issued this fall to persons who reside outside the infected States.

More Personnel and Equipment Arrive from United States

Arrival of additional United States personnel in Mexico, up to October 16, has brought to 473 the total number of United States technicians working for the joint commission. Of this total, 119 are veterinarians, 132 are sanitary technicians working on cleaning and disinfecting, 52 are appraisers, 74 are paymasters, and 27 are lay livestock inspectors. The remainder are administrative and clerical workers or mechanics employed in the machine shop of the commission.

The Mexican section of the commission reported on the same date that it has 113 veterinarians, 50 appraisers, and 34 sanitary technicians.

Both sections of the commission jointly employ 681 mechanics, laborers, and clerks distributed among the 14 infected or quarantined States and the commission's shop and warehouse in Mexico City.

By October 20, approximately 1,900 pieces of automotive and heavy equipment from the United States were in use or available for field operations with additional items on order. On arrival, the equipment is checked for mechanical performance and assigned to district headquarters in the infected States. There it is maintained in operating order, except for major repairs, by mobile repair shops obtained from the Army and through a system of parts replacement operated with trucks from Mexico City.

The commission has found that only by means of swift transport and mechanization can it cope with the disease in the rugged Mexican countryside. Previously such machinery and repair service were lacking.

Slaughter of Infected or Exposed Cattle
and Small Animals

On October 25, the number of infected or exposed cattle slaughtered in all infected States, since the beginning of eradication work, had reached a total of 366,887. The average indemnity payment for cattle was \$49.89 (U.S. currency). A total of 76,895 small animals (swine, sheep, and goats) were slaughtered from October 6 through October 25, at an average payment of \$4.67. This slaughter brought the total number of small animals killed to 229,698.

The accompanying map (on last page of this report) shows, approximately, the areas infected with foot-and-mouth disease, as of October 15, and the areas freed of infection.

Testing Previously Infected Areas Considered
for State of San Luis Potosi

With a report from Mexican and United States veterinarians in charge of operations in the State of San Luis Potosi that formerly infected areas in that State, after careful surveys, continue to be free of infection, the commission is considering testing such areas during November by the introduction of susceptible animals.

Outbreaks of the disease in San Luis Potosi were eliminated by August 30, and cleaning and disinfection operations on all premises previously occupied by infected or exposed animals were completed soon afterward. Meanwhile quarantines have been maintained and inspection crews have been active.

Plans for determining whether the virus has been completely stamped out consist in introducing small numbers of swine and calves--animals most likely to contract the disease if the virus is still present in pastures, corrals, or stables. Decision whether to begin the tests awaits the results of final surveys still in progress.

Patrol of the Mexican-United States Border

The entire Mexican-United States border, which extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean, is being patrolled to prevent the illegal entry of animals or products likely to carry the infection of foot-and-mouth disease from Mexico to the United States. About 300 employees intimately familiar with the areas in which they work are engaged in the patrol. The main difficulty has been in preventing the entry of Mexican cattle by straying, though some smuggling has also occurred. Of great value is a provision in Amendment 7 to B.A.I. Order 373, effective last July, which gives Bureau employees authority to destroy animals that stray or are smuggled across the border. The shooting and burial or burning of a number of cattle and goats that entered the United States illegally had a deterring effect on illegal movements across the border. The recent smuggling of 9 cattle into the United States at one point was promptly detected. Investigation in cooperating with Mexican authorities disclosed, by back-tracking, the premises from which they had come.

As a means of destroying carcasses quickly and effectively in areas where burial is impracticable and fuel is scarce, the Bureau's inspection force plans to conduct tests with a magnesium product known as "goop." Obtained from the Army surplus, this chemical burns with an intense heat when in contact with flesh or other moist substance. A preliminary trial showed that when applied

to the carcass of a cow, it soon destroyed practically everything except the tips of the horns and hoofs.

In preparation for the winter months, the Bureau has provided tents for the border patrol camps in which other shelter is inadequate or lacking. Recent study of the border situation by administrative officials has again emphasized the desirability of more fencing especially as a barrier to stray and wild animals. For about 400 miles at the east, or Gulf, end of the border a substantial fence would be of value in excluding cattle infested with fever ticks as well as aiding in the general enforcement of the border quarantine.

Recent Information Activities

As stated in the last report of this series, the Mexican section of the commission has intensified greatly its information efforts among the people of remote rural areas. The purpose is to overcome the opposition of political extremists and provide an atmosphere of public understanding and cooperation in which eradication crews can work with maximum speed and efficiency.

State committees have been set up in virtually all the afflicted States and community organizations are now functioning. Personal appeals to country people are supplemented with posters, leaflets, and motion pictures supplied by the commission.

In addition, the national organization of peasants, the national agency representing the owners of communal farmlands, and the Mexican ranchers' association have joined agencies of the Mexican Government in spreading accurate information regarding the campaign.

In some areas, however, the situation continues to be difficult. The Mexican Army lacks the necessary motorized equipment for the quick transportation of its troops in many localities. These problems are being dealt with as rapidly as possible.

Participation in Long-Range Research Project

So that every possible method of dealing with foot-and-mouth disease may be explored, the Bureau has participated in plans for an international research project. Preliminary discussions in Mexico, September 17-20, by representatives of England, Mexico, and the United States were followed by a brief field trip through areas in Mexico infected with the disease.

The representative of England was Dr. I. A. Galloway, director of the British Government's foot-and-mouth disease research laboratory at Pirbright, Surrey, England. The United States was represented by Dr. Harry W. Schoening, head pathologist of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry. After concluding their discussions in Mexico City, they met a few days later in Washington, D. C. with other veterinarians and research leaders. These included Dr. R. E. Shope of the Rockefeller Foundation, Dr. Jacob A. Traum of the University of California, and Dr. William A. Hagan of Cornell University. The discussions resulted in general agreement that the use of the slaughter method to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease from Mexico should be vigorously continued. The group also agreed on the desirability of long-range research largely as a means of

dealing most effectively with foot-and-mouth disease problems of the future.

In furtherance of such studies, the consultants made plans for obtaining, from Mexico, statistical data and samples of virus to be sent to the British laboratory at Pirbright, England. To make necessary arrangements for United States participation in the long-range research, Dr. Schoening, accompanied by Dr. L. O. Mott of the Bureau's Animal Disease Station at Beltsville, Md., visited the British laboratory. The facilities there make it especially suitable for research on virus diseases. Dr. Schoening also visited other laboratories in several European countries and conferred with members of their research staffs. Because of the freedom of the United States from foot-and-mouth disease, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has long maintained a policy of not experimenting in this country with the highly infectious virus of the disease, owing to the possibility that it might escape from the laboratory and spread to susceptible livestock.

Supplementary Information

Since the issuance of Supplement No. 8 on September 30, the Department has released, for public distribution, the following material relating to foot-and-mouth disease:

Mexican Canned Meat Purchased Program Announced. Press release, November 7, 1947

THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION IN MEXICO, OCT. 15, 1947

BASED ON REPORTS RECEIVED BY U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

